

**MILLPOND GROUP RESERVATION  
CAMPGROUND PROJECT**

**Environmental Assessment  
OR-104-01-09  
May 3, 2001**

## INTRODUCTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the Swiftwater Field Office's proposed Millpond Group Reservation Campground Project to do a site specific analysis of the potential environmental impacts of this proposed action. The EA assists the Agency in project planning and insuring compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), and in making a determination as to whether any "significant" impacts could result from this action. "Significance" as defined by NEPA is found in regulation 40 CFR 1508.27. An EA provides evidence for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI). The FONSI is a document that briefly presents the reasons why implementation of the proposed action will not result in "significant" environmental impacts (effects) beyond those already addressed in the Roseburg District's *Final Environmental Impact Statement* (FEIS).

If a "Finding of No Significant Impact" is made, a Decision Record will be completed to document the decision, and a notice of this decision will be placed in *The News Review*, a daily newspaper of general circulation in Roseburg, Oregon.

## 1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

This section provides a general overview of the proposed action, including: the purpose and need for the action; project objectives; a general description of the proposal; issues identified by the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT), and a discussion of conformance with existing land use plans.

**1.1 Need for Action** - In the Rock Creek drainage BLM operates two campgrounds - Millpond and Rock Creek. Millpond is located in T.25S., R.2W., Sec 21, and has a street address of 25005 Rock Creek Road. It is a popular campground which is often full to capacity during the months of July and August, and on any holiday weekend. A problem that BLM is experiencing is that people who wish to camp in groups using multiple sites during these busy periods, are trying to reserve sites by placing camp chairs and coolers in them so they will be available when their friends or relatives arrive. While reserving a site by these means violates BLM campground regulations, it is a persistent occurrence which often leads to unpleasant confrontation between our campground hosts and parks maintenance personnel and the offending campers. The common argument made by these campers is that their camping reunion has been planned for months, and many of the people have traveled considerable distance to be there. If they can't hold a site(s) for them, there may not be a spot when they arrive later in the day or week.

This problem indicates a need for a camping area which not only can accommodate a larger group, but which also can be reserved ahead of time.

## 1.2 Objectives -

- 1.2.1 To meet visitor use needs.
- 1.2.2 To meet American With Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards.
- 1.2.3 To use construction standards which will minimize future maintenance requirements.
- 1.2.4 To revegetate areas where there has been tree mortality using native tree species which are root rot resistant.
- 1.2.5 To construct camp spurs so that the drive-thru sites can accommodate a vehicle pulling a 26 ft trailer, and the back-in sites can accommodate a 32 ft trailer.

**1.3 Description of the Proposal** - The Swiftwater Resource Area proposes to construct a group reservation campground at Millpond Recreation Site in the wooded area north of Rock Creek Road and across from the ballfield. The campground would consist of a loop road and nine campsites - five drive-thru sites located on the inside of the loop road, and four back-in sites, two of which would be double wide sites, on the outside of the loop road. A community congregating area consisting of several picnic tables, a fire ring and benches would be built in the middle of this loop and would connect by radiating trails to each campsite. A small pavilion, volleyball court and horseshoe pits would be placed in the grassy area to the south of the campground. A double wide vault restroom would be placed in this same grassy area. A well would be drilled on the large flat above the campground to the north which would be accessed by the existing old road which starts in the grassy area and runs up to this flat. A gate would be placed on this road to limit access. A gate would also be placed on the campground road, so that this site would only be used when it has been reserved, or when Millpond and Rock Creek Campgrounds are full and an overflow area is needed. If the new well provides adequate water volume, an underground water irrigation system would be placed on a portion of the grassy area. Nine snags within the proposed campground area would be cut down. Portions of these snags would be left on site as barrier logs and/or wildlife habitat. If they are in the way and cannot be utilized on site, they would be removed.

**1.4 Issues Identified by the Interdisciplinary Team** - No key issues were identified which required analysis in this EA. Potential issues which were discussed and mitigated for were:

1. Red Tree Vole (RTV) presence at two sites to the east of the proposed campground.

**Proposed mitigation:**

A. Eliminate proposed site #10 which was located on the east side of the campground, within the 180 Ft buffer of the RTV nest tree.

B. Move the proposed play area from the area due east of Site #9 to an area farther to the west outside the 180 Ft RTV buffer.

C. No cutting of Dominant, Codominant or Intermediate trees on the eastern portion of the campground road which falls within the 180 Ft RTV buffer or within campsite #2 and #9.

2. Possible infringement of 100-yr flood plain on grassy area and restroom location to the south of the proposed campground.

**Proposed mitigation:**

Elevate the restroom pad approximately one foot, and construct a wheelchair accessible trail to this restroom.

3. Trash left at the site when the old mill was abandoned in the 1950's.

**Proposed mitigation:**

It was determined that this trash had no cultural significance. Recommendation to remove this trash will be incorporated into this Environmental Assessment as a Project Design Feature.

4. The area between the wooded area where the campground is proposed and Rock Creek road is being invaded by the noxious weed, scotch broom.

**Proposed mitigation:**

Recommendation to eradicate this noxious weed from this site will be incorporated into the Environmental Assessment as a Project Design Feature.

5. The proposed well and the old road accessing this well are located within the Riparian Reserve of the creek which runs to the east of the proposed campground.

**Proposed mitigation:**

Gate this old road so that the only vehicles able to use this road will be the drill truck and BLM maintenance vehicles.

**1.5 Conformance with Existing Land Use Plans** - The Proposed Action is in conformance with the *Final - Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS)* dated October 1994 and its associated *Roseburg District Record of Decision and Resources Management Plan (RMP)* dated June 2, 1995. The RMP was written to be consistent with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (FSEIS)*, dated Feb. 1994 and its associated *Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (ROD)* and *Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old Growth Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (S&G's)* dated April 13, 1994, generally referred to as the "Northwest Forest Plan" (NFP). The NFP ROD establishes management direction consisting of "...extensive standards and guidelines including land allocations, that comprise a comprehensive ecosystem management strategy" (ROD pg. 1).

## **2.0 ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

This section describes the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action developed by the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). Section 2.3 describes the project design features which would be implemented with the proposed action.

**2.1 No Action Alternative** - The proposed action would not be implemented. Campground use at nearby Rock Creek and Millpond would be expected to continue at current or slightly increased levels. This alternative would not address the need for a group reservation camping area. The problem experienced now with defacto reservation of sites by placing lawn chairs and or coolers in the sites to save them for occupants who have not yet arrived would very likely continue to be a problem. The wooded area in which this project has been proposed would continue to be a more-or-less undisturbed, undeveloped area.

**2.2 Site Development Alternative** - Under this alternative a group reservation campground would be constructed. An entrance road would be built off the Rock Creek Access road and would connect to a newly constructed campground loop road (see map "A"). Nine campsites would be built - five drive thru-sites on the inside of the loop road, and four back-in sites on the outside of this loop road. Two of these back-in sites would be made double wide, to accommodate two families in the same site. The existing old road bed which accesses the flat above the campground would be improved to allow passage of a well-drilling rig, and a well would be drilled somewhere on this flat. To minimize future maintenance requirements, all roads and camp spurs (except the road to the well head) would be asphalted.

A volley ball court, small pavilion and horseshoe pits would be constructed on the grassy area between Rock Creek Road and the wooded area to the north. A double wide vault toilet would be installed in this same grassy area. A central group congregating area would be built inside the loop with radiating trails constructed to connect to the outer campsites.

An underground irrigation system would be installed in a portion of the grassy area between Rock Creek Road and the proposed campground.

## **2.3 Project Design Features (PDF) As Part Of The Proposed Action -**

- 2.3.1** Restrict construction activity to the period of May 1 to Nov. 1.
- 2.3.2** Design and construct all improvements so that they are ADA compliant. Pay particular attention to campsites, restrooms and trails.
- 2.3.3** Collect and remove all old trash at this site, including old tires, logging cable, bottles and cans, etc.

- 2.3.4 Eradicate the noxious weed scotch broom from the site, either by pulling or spraying.
- 2.3.5 Place a gate at the beginning of the road to the well site to restrict access.
- 2.3.6 Retain all Dominant, Codominant or Intermediate trees on the eastern portion of the campground road within the 180 Ft RTV buffer or within campsite #2 and #9.
- 2.3.7 Minimize road cuts to three feet or less to protect the roots of the canopy trees.
- 2.3.8 Plant root rot resistant trees in any revegetation efforts.
- 2.3.9 Plan any developments which are near the existing sequoia trees so that these trees can be preserved.
- 2.3.10 Build the loop road and campspurs on compacted rock fill, and use asphalt surfacing.
- 2.3.11 Plant conifers in the opening northeast of the RTV sites.
- 2.3.12 Construct the restroom so that the pad is above the 100-yr floodplain.
- 2.3.13 At the well site, place hay bales as necessary to serve as sediment traps to stop sediment from entering the unnamed sidestream.

## **2.4 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated**

**2.4.1 All sites designed as back-in sites** - Under this alternative eight camping sites were to be built - four on the outside of the loop road and four on the inside. Originally it was thought that back-in sites inside the loop road would give greater camping space and more privacy. In fact, when these sites were layed out on the ground, they did not give more privacy, while taking up more space and leaving less room for the community congregation area in the middle of the loop road. The five drive-thru alternative actually gives more room for the community area, while still giving a similar privacy experience. For these reasons this alternative was not pursued.

**2.4.2 Ten campsite alternative** - Under this alternative, ten campsites were proposed. Nine of the sites would be common to both this alternative and to the preferred alternative. The tenth campsite would extend north from the campground loop road on the outside of the loop and into the 180 Ft buffer area of the RTV nest tree. This site was dropped in order to minimize development within this 180 Ft buffer area.

**2.4.3 Community play area within 180 Ft buffer of RTV, east of site #9** - Under this alternative, the volleyball area and the horseshoe pits would have been placed in the wooded area just east of site #9 and north of the exit road from the campground. Since this area would fall within the 180 Ft buffer of the RTV nest tree, and would no doubt draw people into this area, it was decided to instead move this play area to the east, outside the RTV buffer area.

### **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

This section describes the existing environment and forms a baseline for comparison of the effects created by the alternatives under consideration. This section does not attempt to describe in detail every resource within the proposed project area that could be impacted, but only describes those resources which could be significantly impacted. The Appendices (Analysis File) contains data and supporting information that provides the basis for describing the affected environment.

This project lies within the Oregon Western Cascades Physiographic Province. The FSEIS describes the affected environment for this province on page 3 & 4-19. The Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/EIS, pp.3-3 through 3-71) provides a detailed description of BLM administered lands on the Roseburg District. A further description can also be found in the Rock Creek Watershed Analysis.

The proposed project areas are not known to be disproportionately used by: Native Americans; minorities or low-income populations for specific cultural activities. According to 2000 Census data approximately six percent of the population of Douglas County was classified as minority status (Oregonian, Pg. A-12, March 15, 2001). It is estimated that approximately 15 % of the county is below the poverty level (Frewing-Runyon, 1999).

The proposed Millpond Group Reservation Campground is located adjacent to the Millpond Recreation Site on the north side of Rock Creek Road. The proposed campground encompasses an area approximately 2.5 acres in size. Millpond is located five miles up Rock Creek Road from its intersection with Highway 138. The land use classification for this area is Matrix, and the proposed campground is not located in Riparian Reserve of either Rock Creek or the unnamed side stream to the east.

This proposed campground is classified VRM II, a classification which has an objective to retain the existing visual character of the landscape.

The vegetation on the site varies. To the south of the proposed campground between the woods and Rock Creek road is an unmanaged grassy area approximately 150 feet wide and several hundred feet long running parallel to Rock Creek road. The wooded area where the proposed campground is located has scattered old trees (predominately Douglas-fir, cedar and big-leaf maple), with an

understory of younger second growth trees and low lying brush including ferns, salal and vine maple. There are nine snags in the area ranging in size from 25" to 34" in diameter, and there are several old windfalls scattered through the site.

**3.1 Recreation Resources** - The proposed group campground lies adjacent to the Millpond Recreation Area. This site has a 12-site campground which adjoins a large day-use area. The day-use area has a pavilion, flush restrooms, a ballfield and horseshoe pits, and is often reserved by groups during the summer use season. Rock Creek flows by the day-use area and the campground and has a small swimming/wading area between the day-use area and the campground which is popular with children. Annual visitor use to the campground is approximately 3000 visitors, while annual use in the day-use area is approximately 5500 visitors. This use occurs in the summer use season which starts in mid-May and runs to the end of Oct. Revenues brought in last year at Millpond (summer, 2000) were \$5600 from campground receipts and \$2000 from pavilion rentals. This campground is a part of the National Pilot Fee Demo project which requires that fees collected at the rec site be spent to improve rec site facilities. The campground was full 28 times in 2000, with the busiest times in July and August, and on holiday weekends.

Rock Creek Recreation Site is located approximately one mile up Rock Creek road from Millpond. The campground has 17 campsites, and there is also a small day-use area with pavilion. This campground was full eight times and had approximately 3000 visitors in 2000, and the day-use area had 500 visitors. Over the years this campground has been very popular with local family groups who have held their family reunions here.

**3.2 Soils Resources** - The entrance to the proposed campground is located in the flood plain of Rock Creek. Underlying soils are fine sandy loam, and this is overlain with material which was imported as fill when the area was a part of the old mill site. The campsite area is on deep alluvial or old landslide deposits from the adjacent uplands and supports a coniferous forest. The gently undulating slopes in the campground area range from flat to 15 %. The soils are well drained and typically have gravelly loam surfaces and silty clay loam subsoils. An upland slope of 80 percent overlooks the campsites to the immediate west. The soil here is well drained and moderately deep (20 to 40 inches). Soils in the proposed campground are stable, and because it is so flat erosion in the affected area is very low.

**3.3 Cultural Resources** - The area encompassing the general vicinity of Millpond Campground has been inventoried for cultural resources on several occasions for a variety of projects associated with the development and maintenance of the campground. No prehistoric resources have been discovered. Historic resources, however, are abundant, being associated with a sawmill that operated on-site for 15 years. The mill was developed in 1941 by Sid Comfort and four partners. Within six months, attorney Maurice Hallmark had become Comfort's sole partner in the corporation that would become Douglas County Lumber Company. The sawmill continued to operate at Millpond until 1956, when it was moved to the current location near Winchester.



The mill complex eventually included the mill, a steam boiler and turbine, a wigwam burner, a shop, a cookhouse, sheds, bunkhouses and other dwellings, a bath house, and boardwalks. The camp that grew up around the complex reportedly housed up to 50 people. Additional workers were bused to the site from Roseburg on a daily basis. The milling equipment was located on what is now the southeast side of Rock Creek Road. The turbine platform and burner base are still standing. The ancillary structures were located on the other side of the road and are essentially gone. Some of the buildings were built on skids and were removed when the mill was closed. Others were probably torn down and salvaged over the years. Pieces of scrap metal, bottles, rusty cans, and occasional pieces of lumber and machinery are all that remain.

Cultural resources in the proposed project area are even more limited because the area was peripheral to the main occupation at the site. According to informant testimony, the main camp was located to the north and northeast of the proposed project, and was generally associated with the small stream that flows into Rock Creek. A diesel shop and associated buildings may have been located in or near the proposed project area. However, the remains are essentially non-existent. Scrap metal, broken bottles, and rusty cans comprise the bulk of the historic debris within the project area. These resources are not considered significant and probably represent a hazard. They should be considered for removal from the proposed project area.

**3.4 Botanical Resources** - The natural vegetative component of the proposed campground area is Douglas-fir/salal/Oxalis plant association. There are inclusions of western hemlock, incense and western red cedar. A shrub component of ocean spray and maple is also present. Surveys for vascular plants, fungi, bryophytes and lichens have been conducted, and the area has been cleared of any S&M, T&E or SSP species that would require mitigations. The noxious weed, scotch broom is present in the grassy area between the road and the proposed campground area, and across the road north of the ballfield.

**3.5 Hydrological Resources** - The proposed group camping area is located within the Millpond sixth-field subwatershed and within the Rock Creek watershed. An unnamed perennial stream exists on the northern end of the campground, which has a Riparian Reserve of approximately 180 feet on either side of this creek.

An assessment of the 100-year floodplain was conducted to determine the extent of the Riparian Reserve of Rock Creek, and the current use of the site, and to comply with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management statute (1977). This assessment determined that the approximate 100-yr floodplain boundary for Rock Creek lies in the grassy area north of Rock Creek road, near the transition between the grass and the wooded area where the proposed campground will be built.

The proposed action does not fall within the transient snow zone (tsz).

**3.6 Fishery Resources** - The Millpond Recreation Site is located in the Rock Creek 5<sup>th</sup> field watershed and Millpond 6<sup>th</sup> field, on the banks of Rock Creek approximately six miles upstream from its confluence with the North Umpqua River. The proposed group campground project is adjacent to an unnamed tributary to Rock Creek, but farther than 180 feet from, and outside the Riparian Reserve for this unnamed tributary. Rock Creek supports four species of anadromous salmonids, including spring chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead, and searun cutthroat trout. There are over 54 miles of known fish bearing streams in the Rock Creek watershed. Most of these miles have anadromous fish present within them.

All actions, with the exception of well construction, associated with the project would take place farther than one site potential tree height (180 feet) from non-fish bearing streams and two site potential tree heights (360 feet) from fish bearing streams. A portion of the project area is within the 100 year floodplain and therefore, within the Riparian Reserve network.

**3.7 Wildlife Resources** - Following are the wildlife species of potential interest in the project area:

Northern Spotted Owl - The 2.5 acres in Section 21 are primarily second growth timber. This area is mid-seral habitat, and as such is not considered suitable for spotted owl nesting. There are no known spotted owl sites within 1.2 miles of the project area, and this section is not designated as critical habitat for the northern spotted owl.

Marbled Murrelet - The project area is located more than 50 miles from the coast and is therefore not considered to be suitable nesting habitat.

Other T&E Species - No bald eagle nests or winter roosting areas are known to occur within the project area.

The project area does not constitute preferred habitat for the Columbia white-tailed deer.

Fender's blue butterfly are linked to Kincaid's lupine, their food source. No patches of Kincaid's lupine have been reported in the project area.

Survey and Manage - The area in and around the project area are considered suitable habitat for the red tree vole. A survey of the area located three red tree vole platforms in section 21. Two of these platforms are active. A red tree vole management area has been established to the northeast of the proposed campground area.

There is no suitable habitat for Pristoloma artium crateris or Helmithoglypta hertleini in the project area.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section provides the evidence and analytical basis for the comparisons of the alternatives. The probable environmental consequences (impacts, effects) to the human environment that each alternative would have on selected resources are described. The section is organized by the alternatives and by selected resources under each alternative. Analysis considers the direct impacts (effects caused by the action and occurring at the same place and time), indirect impacts (effects caused by the action and occurring later in time and farther removed in distance) and cumulative impacts (effects of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions) on the resource values. The Appendices contains additional supporting information which provides the basis for this analysis. The EIS and FSEIS analyzes the environmental consequences in a broader context. This EA does not attempt to reanalyze impacts that have already been analyzed in these documents but rather to identify the particular site specific impacts that could reasonably occur. Environmental effects to the “Critical Elements of the Human Environment” is analyzed in Appendix D.

Some irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources would result from the implementation of this project. An irreversible commitment is a commitment that cannot be reversed whereas an irretrievable commitment is a commitment that is lost for a period of time. An irreversible commitment of petroleum fuels for construction as well as the loss of rock from quarries for rock subgrade use for the road and campsites would result from the proposed action.

When encountering a gap in information, the question implicit in the Council on Environmental Quality regulations on incomplete and unavailable information is: “is this information essential to a reasoned choice among the alternatives?” (40 CFR 1502.22(a)). While additional information would often add precision to estimates or better specify a relationship, the basic data and central relationships are sufficiently well established that any new information would not likely reverse or nullify understood relationships. Although new information would be welcome, no missing information was determined as essential for the decision maker to make a reasoned choice among the alternatives.

**Recreation** - Direct effects are actions which result in a change in the recreational use of the area such as people being drawn to the site to camp and recreate, and a new service being provided which allows groups of people to reserve a camping areas ahead of time. Indirect effects include such things as an increase in use of facilities and attractions in the surrounding areas away from the Millpond site, including such things as use of backroads, trails, rivers, picnic areas, swimming holes etc.

**Botany** - Direct effects are those actions that cause mortality of Special Status and SEIS Special Attention Plants such as ground disturbance or alteration of microclimate conditions favorable to the sustained viability of plants. Indirect effects include possible spread of noxious weeds.

**Hydrology** - Direct effects are those actions that cause direct changes to the stream channel morphology, to hydraulic geometry, or to water quality. Indirect effects include such things as changes in road densities which could reroute runoff and transport sediment, changes in streamside shading, and changes in large woody debris recruitment effecting hydrology and water quality.

**Soils** - Direct effects consist of those actions that cause a reduction in soil productivity such as compaction due to construction of campsites and access roads, soil loss through erosion, and displacement of soil through mechanical means. Indirect effects could include the hydrological movement of sediment from areas where soils are disturbed during construction into nearby waterways and eventually into Rock Creek.

**Fishery Resources** - Direct effects are those actions that cause direct mortality, such as accidental chemical spills and direct disturbance of redds. Generally direct impacts occur from work within or adjacent to fish bearing streams. Actions that indirectly affect fisheries include: increases in sedimentation and/or increases in water temperature downstream caused by construction activity further upstream, and changes in large woody input downstream resulting from actions upstream which reduce the amount of large woody material which could fall into the stream and then migrate downstream.

**Cultural Resources** - The primary direct effect would be disturbance of an archeological or historical site. The primary indirect effect would be disturbance from dispersed recreational use beyond the local site.

This chapter describes the environmental consequences for the two proposed alternatives (No Action, and the Site Development).

#### **4.1 No Action Alternative** - Do not construct this Group Reservation Campground.

**4.1.1 Recreation Resources** - This group reservation camping area would not be built as an expansion of the Millpond Recreation Site. Groups such as large family groups, church groups, and scouting groups would have to find alternative areas for group camping. The nearest group camping alternative site to Millpond is at Steamboat on the Umpqua National Forest, approximately 20 miles away. Because there would be no reservation group camping alternative in the Rock Creek area, the existing problem where campers try to hold sites for friends and relatives would very likely persist, causing continuing problems for our hosts and parks maintenance crew.

**4.1.2 Soils Resources** - The sites of the proposed campground and road access would continue to be stable and have very little erosion.

**4.1.3 Cultural Resources** - There would be no effect under this alternative.

**4.1.4 Botanical Resources** - This alternative would result in no adverse direct or indirect impacts to any botanical resources on the site. If the scotch broom infestation were not treated, however, it would continue to proliferate and become more of a problem.

**4.1.5 Hydrological Resources** - There would be no effect under this alternative.

**4.1.6 Fishery Resources** - Existing conditions would not change with the No Action alternative, and there would be no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to fisheries.

**4.1.7 Wildlife Resources** - There would be no effect under this alternative.

**4.2 Site Development Alternative** - Construct the group reservation camping area as proposed.

**4.2.1 Recreation Resources** - If the group reservation campground is constructed, some of the family and church groups that have been camping at Millpond and Rock Creek campgrounds would very likely reserve this new campground rather than put up with the hassles and uncertainties they experience when they try to hold sites in these two existing campgrounds. A public need would be addressed, and some of the problems associated with defacto reservation of sites in Millpond and Rock Creek Campgrounds would be alleviated. A direct impact of this action would be that additional people would be drawn to this site. It's estimated that groups of up to 75 people would camp in this area at any one time, and 1000 - 2000 persons would use this area in a given season. Also, a public need would be met by providing a new campground which would allow groups to reserve sites. An indirect impact of this action would be that there would be some slight increase in use of other recreation opportunities in the area. Most of this use would be confined to the Millpond area, but there would also be some increase in recreational use of back roads, trails and other highway 138 attractions. In addition, other groups which hadn't previously camped in this area could be drawn to this recreation site once they learn about the existence of this new group reservation camping area. A cumulative impact of this action will be that once the new campground is constructed, additional people will be drawn to this area beyond the number that are currently using the two existing recreation sites in the area. Twelve thousand visitors used the Millpond and Rock Creek Recreation sites last year. In coming years this number could increase by an additional 1000-2000 visitors.

**4.2.2 - Soils Resources** - Approximately 2.5 acres of land would be impacted by campground development and use. There would be a direct impact on one acre or less caused by construction of the access road, paths and pads. These areas would be compacted and covered with asphalt or gravel, and would no longer contribute to the vegetative productivity of the area. By limiting any road cuts to three feet or less, and seeding and/or planting all exposed surfaces, there should be no stability or erosion problems caused by this action. An indirect impact of this action could occur on the first station of the access road where the new construction could be a potential temporary source of sedimentation to Rock Creek. The amount of sedimentation, if any, would be very small and would likely only occur during the first wet season following construction before soil exposed during the construction is fully revegetated. Foot traffic compaction and erosion outside of the trails would be minor and would only be an aesthetic concern. The cumulative impact of this action would be an additional loss of one acre or less of ground from the timber and other vegetation land base.

**4.2.3 - Cultural Resources** - Because the cultural resources in the proposed project area are not considered significant, there will be no effect under this alternative. This information will be conveyed to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in accordance with the National Programmatic Agreement among BLM, the Advisory Council and the National Conference of SHPOs and its resulting Oregon protocol.

**4.2.4 - Botanical Resources** - While the overall effects on vegetation would be minor with this action, there would be impacts as discussed below:

A. Direct Impacts. To the extent that roads, campsites and trails would require removal of vegetation, and this vegetation would be permanently removed from these areas, there would be approximately one-quarter acre of land taken out of production.

B. Indirect Impacts - Vegetative productivity for this campground area would be reduced slightly.

C. Cumulative Impacts - The existing Millpond Recreation Site already has approximately eight acres of ground removed from its natural vegetative state due to such past developments as roadways, campsites, picnic areas, ballfield, structures and parking areas. An additional one acre would be added to this area with this proposed development.

**4.2.5 - Hydrological Resources** - No direct, indirect or cumulative effects to hydrologic, geomorphic or ecologic processes are expected from the proposed campground expansion. The physical integrity of Rock Creek and the unnamed side stream, and water quality would be unaffected by this action. Although some ground

disturbing activities will occur in the construction of roads and campsites, there will be little or no sediment delivery (i.e. landslides, overland or surface flow) to either of these streams. Since this area does not fall into the transient snow zone, peak stream flows will not be affected by this action.

Water from a 100-year flood is likely to move into the grassy area (north of the Rock Creek road) and possibly several feet into the trees. The volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and approximately 200 feet of the entry road to the proposed campground are located within the 100-yr floodplain of Rock Creek, and by definition is a Riparian Reserve (Northwest Forest Plan, Standards and Guidelines, C-30). The amount of road in the floodplain is approximately 0.08 acres, and would not alter the function of the floodplain nor the timing, variability, or duration of floodplain inundation.

#### **4.2.6 Fishery Resources -**

A. Direct Impacts - The only construction activity which will occur within 180 ft of the unnamed side stream will be the improvement of the existing old road up to the well site, and the drilling of the well. The well site will be within **100 ft** of this stream. Earth movement and disturbance associated with this activity will be minimal, and would result in no direct impact to the fishery.

B. Indirect Impacts - The proposed action would not significantly alter vegetation within 100 feet of the unnamed sidestream. Stream temperature and large woody inputs would remain at existing rates and levels. Aside from the well drilling activity, this alternative would not include ground disturbing actions that have the potential to transmit sediment to an active stream channel. Any ground disturbance associated with this well drilling would be minimal and transitory in nature, and with the project design feature of placing hay bales as sediment traps where ever sediment might be transported into the side stream, there should be no significant movement of sediment into this stream.

Stream flow would be unaffected by this action.

The Riparian Reserve system was established on government lands to protect aquatic species and habitats. Under this proposal no ground disturbing actions that degrade habitat for aquatic species and habitats would occur (see ACS consistency). Overall effects to aquatic species and habitats are expected to be inconsequential.

C. Cumulative Impacts - This project would increase the amount of permanent road in the Rock Creek watershed by 1200 feet and remove few, if any mature trees. This impact will be negligible.

#### 4.2.7 Wildlife Resources -

##### A. Direct Impacts

**Northern Spotted Owl** - There would be no loss of suitable spotted owl nesting habitat.

**Red Tree Vole** - There would be modifications of two acres of suitable, unoccupied, red tree vole habitat. There would be some road and campsite construction within 180 feet of the known red tree vole nest trees. Modifications to the original campground design have been made to eliminate the need to remove any dominant, codominant or intermediate green conifers within the red tree vole management area. While some snags would be felled in the project area, there should be minimal impact to the canopy environment.

Disturbance from the campground should not be any more detrimental to the red tree vole management area than disturbance caused by activity associated with the adjacent paved road and day-use area and should not significantly modify the current distribution in the stand. As a mitigation, one originally proposed campsite was removed from within the red tree vole management area.

##### B. Indirect Impacts

**Northern Spotted Owl** - There should be very few if any indirect impacts. There may be some modification of the micro-climate in the adjacent stands, however those impacts should be minor due to the limited number of trees which will be cut.

**Red Tree Vole** - There should be very few if any indirect impacts.

##### C. Cumulative Impacts

**Northern Spotted Owl** - Since few if any trees would be cut under this project, the cumulative impact of this action would be minimal.



**4.2.8 Consultation/ACS Compliance** - The proposed action would have No Affect on Umpqua River cutthroat trout, Oregon Coast steelhead, and Oregon Coast coho, or the Northern Spotted Owl. This determination is based on the expected effects to listed species or to critical habitat being minor, insignificant or negligible. Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), or with the US Fish and Wildlife Service was not required.

The proposed action has been designed to maintain watershed features important for maintaining Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) Objectives. Four components of the ACS are integral in both the NFP and RMP in developing and implementing projects that are consistent with ACS objectives. These four components are: 1. Riparian Reserves; 2. Key Watersheds; 3. Watershed Analysis; and 4. Watershed Restoration. The following narrative addresses how each of these components relates to both the proposed action and to the fifth field watershed:

Riparian Reserves - The reserve system was established to provide areas necessary for maintaining hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological processes that directly affect functions vital to aquatic and upland species dependant on these areas. Construction of this group campground would not alter the suitability of habitat for riparian dependant species or degrade aquatic resources.

Key Watersheds - The Millpond Recreation Site is located within the Rock Creek Fifth-field watershed. The Rock Creek Fifth-field is not a Key Watershed.

Watershed Analysis - Watershed analysis has been completed for this watershed. The Millpond campground expansion is consistent with the finding of this analysis.

Watershed Restoration - No watershed restoration is planned under this proposal.

## 5.0 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND LIST OF PREPARERS

**5.1 Public Notification** - Through the *Roseburg District Planning Update* (winter 2000 and Spring 2001) notification of this project was provided to the following groups:

5.1.1 **Tribal Governments** (Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw; Grande Ronde; and Siletz). No comments were received.

5.1.2 The **general public** (notice sent to approximately 150 addressees). These addressees consist of members of the public that have expressed an interest in Roseburg District BLM projects. No comments were received.

5.1.3 **State, County and Local Government.**

A 30-day **public comment period** will be established for review of this EA. A Notice Of Availability will be published in the *News Review*. This EA and its associated documents will be sent to all parties who request them. If the decision is made to implement this project, a notice will be published in the *News Review*.

**Cultural Resources Section 106 Compliance** - The BLM has completed its Section 106 responsibilities under the 1997 National Programmatic Agreement and the 1998 Oregon Protocol. This was accomplished by inventorying the project area and finding that no significant resources were present. This finding has been documented with a Project Tracking Form. A copy of the inventory report will be sent to the State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with the Oregon Protocol.

## 5.2 List of Preparers:

Dave Erickson - Swiftwater Recreation Specialist, Project Leader  
 Gregg Morgan - District Recreation Planner  
 Chuck White - Recreation Maintenance Supervisor  
 Dan Cressy - Soils Scientist  
 Ron Wickline - Botanist  
 Chris Foster - Wildlife Biologist  
 Ed Rumbold - Hydrologist  
 Garth Ross - Fisheries Biologist  
 Isaac Barner - Archeologist  
 Pete Howe - Engineer  
 Karel Broda - Civil Engineer  
 Bill O'Sullivan - Resources Manager, Management Rep  
 Jeff Wall - EA & NEPA Oversight

# CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

The following elements of the human environment are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation, or executive order. These resources or values are either not present or would not be affected by the proposed actions or alternatives, unless otherwise described in this EA. This negative declaration is documented below by individuals who assisted in the preparation of this analysis.

Element	Responsible Position	Not Present	Not Affected	In Text	Initials	Date
Air Quality	Fuels Management Specialist		X		KE	5/17/01
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Environmental Specialist	X			JW	5/17/01
Cultural Resources	Archeologist		X		JB	5/17/01
Environmental Justice	Environmental Specialist			X	JW	5/17/01
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	Soil Scientist	X			DCC	5/18/01
Flood Plains	Hydrologist		✓	✓	ER	5/18/01
Invasive, Nonnative Species	Botanist			X	ER	5-17-01
Native American Religious Concerns	Environmental Specialist	X			JW	5/17/01
Threatened or Endangered Species (fish)	Fisheries Biologist		X	X	GR	5/21/01
Threatened or Endangered Species (plants)	Botanist	X	X		ER	5-17-01
Threatened or Endangered Species (wildlife)	Wildlife Biologist			X	LF	5-17-01
Hazardous/Solid Wastes	District Hazardous Materials Coordinator		X		ER	5-18-01
Water Quality Drinking/Ground Water	Hydrologist		✓	✓	ER	5/18/01
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Hydrologist		✓	✓	ER	5/18/01
Wild and Scenic Rivers	Recreation Planner	X			BM	5/16/01
Wilderness	Recreation Planner	X			BM	5/16/01

